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»»»»»Special "mutilation issue": people did not only see large marine creatures, they mutilated them all over the globe.«««««

BEHEMOTH

● Loch Ness: Andreas Trottman's "Loch Ness Newscipping Service" vol. 3, nr. 4 has just arrived (Les Pretresses, 1586 Vallamand VD, Switzerland) with the following highlights: Nessie seen 12 times in 1972 (Inverness Courier 21.11.1972, reprinted in 25 years ago-column); earthquake in Great Glen in Dec 97 (various clippings); old reports from the Inverness Courier from 28 Nov 1822 (on a mermaid hoax) and 23 Nov 1897 on "unsolved riddles". The latter does not even mention Nessie, but refers to "living creatures identical with those of prehistoric times" which might live on Roraima in South America. It appears - as always when the Inverness Courier reported about monsters - their own special Nessie did not come to mind. It was the best guarded secret of the whole 19th century. Trottman's "Newscipping Service" also includes clips on recent puma activity in the highlands. Subscribe today! Andreas Trottman has also sent me a clip from the Inverness Courier's 50 years ago section referring to their 16 Jan 1948 edition, with a pre-1900 sighting of Nessie. Mr H. J. Craig, former Scotman now living in Australia, told the "West Australian" newspaper (27 Sept 1947) how he, "fifty-eight years ago I, as a boy, was fishing with one of my brothers from a rowboat in the loch near Castle Urquhart. ... Suddenly, right opposite our boat a huge form reared itself above the surface a short distance from where we were fishing and swam at a great speed ... I thought it was a huge sea serpent because what appeared to be its coils rose out of the water as it swam. Needless to say my brother and I rowed desperately ashore and went home in a fright bordering on the hysterical." He saw the monster in 1889. * "Hearing" of the Loch Ness Monster, by a lady at Invermoriston, on 9 August 1997. Rip Hepple (Nessletter 132, p. 4) thinks it might well have been just exited ducks - and an exited witness...

● Bibliography: * INFO Journal 78: lake monsters in South Africa & Russia, p. 49; Pend Oreille, p. 56, dinosaur on American artifacts, p. 3; dragon in 1142, p. 34; Gaddis on sky monster, p. 47 * Lake Poso, Sulawesi, the Indonesia monster lake is also, according to local tradition, the "pivot of the earth and heavens, and the spot where a rope once joined the two". Chet Van Duzer in At the Edge 9, March 98, p. 8) Was the monster a guardian spirit? Early explorers also told of the lake monster in Lake Manasarovar (Tibet) which is thought to be the centre of the world

ISIS

● Anti mermaid aggression: Early January 1998 was a bad time for mermaids. First a mermaid caused a riot at a South African aquarium. Visitors threw drink cans at a mermaid when they found it was not real, but a woman in a fish dress. The aquarium has now cancelled the show. (taz, 5 Jan 98, p. 20) - In the night from January 5 to 6, 1998, vandals, humorists, artists or forterans (depends on your point of view) beheaded the statue of the little mermaid at Copenhagen (SWF3 news 6 Jan 98; taz 7 Jan 98, p. 5) This came shortly after the last attack on the mermaid had been solved by a confession. A militant feminist group claimed they had done it this time (Bild 9 Jan 98, p. 1) but they later withdrew their confession (taz 9 Jan 98, p. 11) Anyway, the head was returned later (taz 10 Jan 98, p. 11) and fixed to the head again (taz, 3 Feb 98, p. 11) - While all these attacks on mermaids happened, a NATO marine manoeuvre called "Responsible Mermaid" (or similar, I translate from German) took place in the eastern Mediterranean on January 7, 1998 (taz 8 Jan 98, p. 10)

● Italy: In June 1962, Colmaro Orsini was fishing on a reef near

Bocca di Magra when he encountered a siren. He first heard a sweet melody, than saw a green-haired woman's head out of the water. The mermaid then departed toward Punta Bianca, and the witness could see he blue fish-like tail. (Dr Paolo Cortesi in The INFO Journal 78, p. 36, quoting Domenica del Corriere 17 June 62, p. 48)

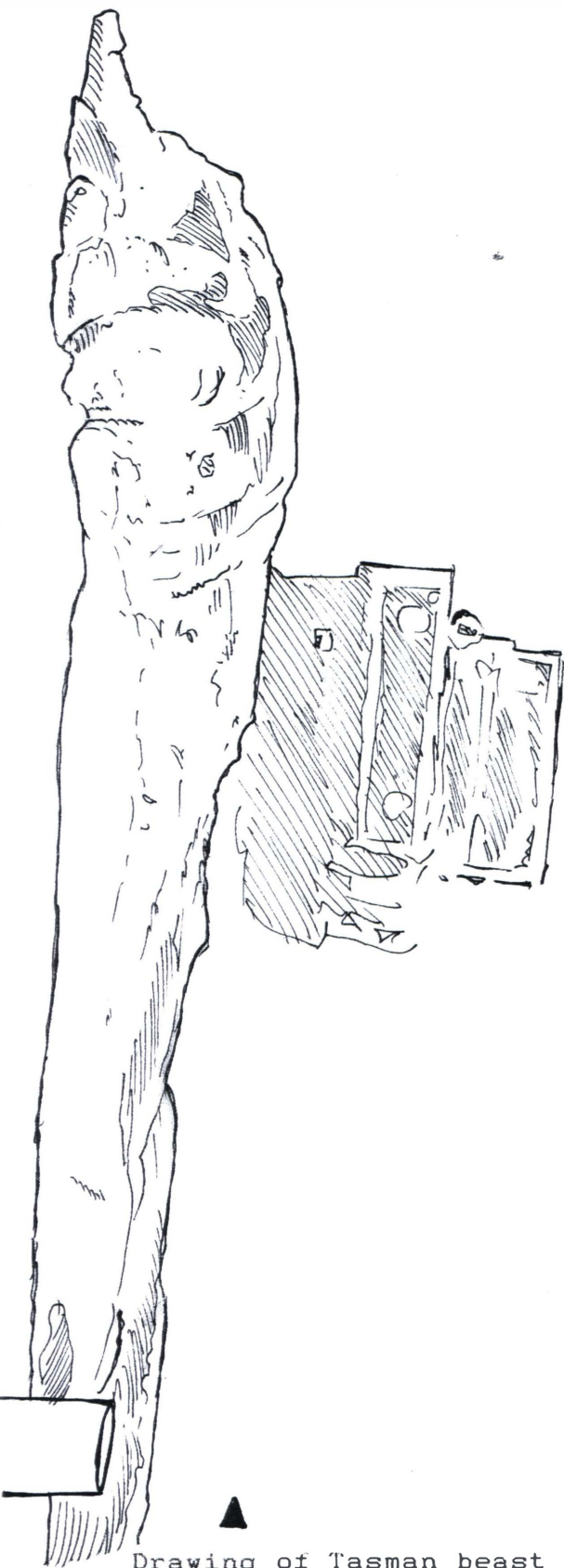
● Bibliography: Among the things depicted by Finno-Ugrian rock art in the White Sea region of Russia (3500 BC) is a "whale-tailed human with 'shamans rattles'" (At the Edge 8, Dec 97, p. 40) * A creation myth of Papua New Guinea includes a crocodile with a human head that swims in the chaotic

primal ocean. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 20 Jan 98, p. 14) * spirit tradition at a sea lough in Co. Waterford, Ireland, may be folk memory of Celtic god (At the Edge 9, 3/98, p.23)

LEVIATHAN

● Bibliography: * A sea monster at Masbate, Philipines: Fortean Times 105, p. 16 * mysterious whale, Fortean Times 104, p. 47

● Tasmania: The 1962-"globster" of Tasmania is one of the classic sea monster cases: was it an unknown animal or a decomposed whale? Now history repeats itself. According to the tabloid Bild (9 Jan 98, p. 4) a "seven metre, three ton, six-legged animal with two fins" has been washed ashore at Granville Harbour, Tasmania. Fishermen found the thing buried in the sand. Maurice Linfoot says: "I have been fishing for 25 years and I have caught many deformed animals in that time, but I have never seen such an animal before. It is a disgusting, stinking blob of meat." Navy (or marine, the translation is unclear) biologists investigate the find to see whether it belongs to an unknown species. It appears to be a cross between squid and whale. (ho!ho!) It has fine hairs on its skin which are now dry, and they feel like leather to the touch. Bild ends this rather strange report with the suggestion that it is - a giant squid! The accompanying picture (see drawing to left) shows something that very much resembles the 1962 find, as pictured and described by Kolosimo, Sanderson and others. The 1962 carcass, if I remember correctly, had been around for more than two years - is it silly to speculate that this new carcass and the old one are actually the same? So closely related do they look that I can't wait for more information. I had always assumed that the 1962 case had been a decomposed whale, but two decomposed whales looking absolutely similar in every detail, both stranded a Tasmania, isn't that coincidence overworked? The only other option is a previously unknown monster, which is equally unconvincing. Utterly fascinating.



▲
Drawing of Tasman beast

● Bibliography: * Review's of Ellis' book still regularly turn up in the media. It was elected "science book of the year" by several newspapers and by "Bild der Wissenschaft". A review also appeared in "Die Rheinpfalz", 8 Nov 1997. * A new book on German woodcuts of the 17th century is said to include old broad sheets on miracles and sea monsters. (Rheinpfalz 31 May 97) I have not yet seen it, the title is: Nicoline Hortsitz: Von den unmenschlichen Taten des Totengräbers Heinrich Krahle zu Frankenstein und andere wahrhaftige 'Neue Zeitungen' aus der Frühzeit der Sensationspresse. Gatzka bei Eichborn: Frankfurt 1997, 44 Marks, 168 pp.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY

● Bibliography: * owlman in Cornwall (Fortean Times 101) and in the Philippines (Fortean Times 106, p. 18)

NEW ANIMAL DISCOVERIES

● Bibliography: * A previously unknown colony of panda has been discovered in southwest China, about 30 animals. (Das Tier, Oct 1997, p. 5) * Italian biologists have found a new race of mice near Seveso, according to Unita newspaper. Seveso suffered one of the worst chemical catastrophes in July 1976, and it is thought that the mice are a result of chromosome change caused by it. (Süddeutsche Zeitung 21 Nov 1997, p. 12) * Hans Hermann Schleich has discovered a new species of lizard in Nepal in summer of 1995. It resembles a gecko and has a beautiful yellow brown bands. It measures 15 cm. (Badische Neuste Nachrichten, 29 Oct 1997)

EXTINCT ANIMALS - REDISCOVERED?

● Bibliography: * A new megamouth (INFO Journal 78, p. 43) * the "discovery" of tylacines in Irian Jaya (Badische Neuste Nachrichten 12 Jan 98) * An owl species thought to have died out 113 years ago, Athene blewitt [no joke!], has been discovered in the Indian jungle northeast of Bombay, by American scientists Pamela C Rasmussen and her team of the Washington National Museum of Natural History. They spotted two of the 20 cm tall birds. Back to mutilation - one of the birds had traces of blood on his beak - the biologists assume the owl hunts prey only slightly smaller than itself. (Focus 12 Jan 1998, p. 16)

OUT OF PLACE ANIMALS

● Piranha: 15 year old angler Carlos Gonzales fished a 34 cm, 1.1 kilogramm piranha from a Madrid, Spain, park pond, according to El Mundo newspaper. Gonzales at first thought he had caught a carp, but then noticed the sharp teeth. (taz 8 Dec 97, p. 20; Welt am Sonntag 7 Dec 1997, p. 14)

● Crocodile: In a postscript to the above article, we learn that gardeners have observed a crocodile in another artificial pond in this Madrid park. (taz 8. December 1997, p. 20)

USO

● Bibliography: UFO over Barliloché at Nahuel Huapi, Argentina, wasn't almost as impressive as the UFOlogical papers told us (Cenap Report 246, p. 62) * strange lights and booms over the Moray Firth (Cenap Report 246, p. 58; Fortean Times 106, p. 21) * A South Korean fishing boat sank on February 11, 1998, after colliding with a nuclear US submarine. (taz, 12 Feb 1998, p. 10)

● Sweden: Soldiers used over ten automatic cameras with high-power tele lenses for several years to videotape young naked female bathers off Karlskrona when their real task was to observe and identify USOs in the 1980s, a report in Sweden's soldier magazine "Värnpliktsnytt" revealed. Johann Lindberg, commander of the soldiers who did the filming, will call for an official inquiry. Björn von Sydow, the Minister of Defense, spoke of a "very serious abuse of trust" by the soldiers. (taz 17 Dec 97, p. 20; Spiegel 52/1997, 22 Dec 97, p. 196; Süddeutsche Zeitung 5 Feb 98, p. 23)

MARINE LIFE

● Whales: * Off Argentina, seagulls have begun to attack southern right whales (südlicher Glattwal in German) off Valdes Peninsula. Over one third of the 157 whales spotted there had scars resulting from such attacks, Geo reported in their July 97 edition. It seems

that the gulls mutilate the whales to eat them (Der Bote für Nürnberg, 28 June 97, p. 7) * 140 dead dolphins have been washed ashore dead at La Turtuga in the Caribbean. Their bellies were red, so the cause - experts say - for the mass death were parasites. (taz, 8 Jan 98, p. 8) * Another mass stranding of sperm whales (cf last Bilk, the helpers who had to cut-up the beached whales suffered from "psychological problems" afterwards, see taz, 10 Dec 97, p. 20) happened on Jan 23, 1998, at St. Peter-Ording, Germany. 5 sperm whales stranded there, while 3 more were waiting in the waters off Dithmarschen. (Badische Neueste Nachrichten, 23 Jan 98; ARD Tagesschau 23 Jan 98; taz 24 Jan 98, p. 6, and 26 Jan 98, p. 5) As in all these cases, local authorities had great problems to dispose the dead ocean giants. They were cut up and brought to an animal meal factory. Authorities warned tourists that the dead whales could explode. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 Jan 98, p. 11) * True to my prediction in last Bilk, whales beach all over the globe: 65 sperm whales stranded at Tasmania on Feb 3, 98. 61 had died by Feb 5. (taz 5 Feb 98, p. 4; Süddeutsche Zeitung 5 Feb 98, p. 14) * A habitat of Southern right whales (Südkaper, Südliche Glattwale in German) has been discovered at Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand. The whales were thought to be extinct for 150 years. A documentary about these fantastic animals was shown on German TV channel ARD on Feb 19, 1998 (and a short review appeared in Bild, 20 Feb 1998, p. 2) * Still longer extinct, and certainly dead, was the whale discovered in Sleswig-Holstein, Germany, by Reiner Ritz and Werner Müller of Norderstedt at Hamburg: they found the oldest known remains of an orca, 15 million years old, as the experts say. (Liboriusblatt, 23 March 97)

● Sharks: * At Capetown Beach, bathers have clubbed a white shark to death. The 4 metre animal had been sick and wounded and became beached. Experts were unable to identify the cause of the stranding as the shark was so heavily mutilated by the idiots that an autopsy was impossible. The killers were so enraged because only shortly before a diver had vanished, and, you know, only one of these bloodthirsty sharks could have done it. White sharks are in danger of extinction, and they are protected by law. (taz 7 Jan 1998, p. 20) * A white shark attacked a bather at the Great Barrier Reef, Australia (Sonntag Aktuell, 9 Nov 97, p. 16)

● Pinnipedia: * On Jan 29, 1998, a male walrus with two tusks was spotted in the sea off Sylt, Germany. (Badische Neueste Nachrichten, 31 Jan 98) * Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake in northwest Russia, is to become a tourist resort. It has a living population of about 1500 freshwater seals. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 22 Jan 98, p. R5) * A mass death of sea lions is reported from the Auckland Islands (320 km sth of New Zealand). 1000 adult female and 1400 infants have been found dead, the cause is still unidentified. (taz 4 Feb 98, p. 8)

LOST LANDS

● Strange submarine ruins have been discovered off the Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa, Japan, in spring 1995. Buildings are at five sites, always close to the shore in depths of a few to 25 metres. These ruins exist, and on the photos they look a bit like Inca quarries. Fascinating material, but Frank Joseph's article about the finds is awfully low on information but full of Atlantis-type speculation, and it is the only one I've seen so far. It was in "Efodon Synesis" 22, July/August 97 (»"Mu" gefunden?« = Mu discovered?) and also in "Magazin 2000" last summer. According to "Super Mystery Magazine", Tokyo, no. 186, similar structures can be found above sea level on Okinawa.

● "Larsen B", an ice island 160 km long, will sooner or later free itself from the Antarctic ice cap and drift into the Atlantic Ocean, with consequences for the whole system of ocean streams and for water temperatures as well. (taz, 31 Jan 98, p. 8)

This is all for today. Your news and views are always welcome.